

# BPA NEWS

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BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION  
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## **Vandalized road gates impede access to transmission system for line crews; ratepayers foot repair bill**

*BPA offers reward up to \$25,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction*

**Jackson Hole, Wyo.** – The Bonneville Power Administration is offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for tips about a series of damaged road gates near high-voltage lines in Teton County of both Wyoming and Idaho. The gates provide access for line crews to bring equipment in to maintain and repair transmission lines that provide power to the region.

Authorities believe the gates are vandalized so individuals can bypass them and enter U.S. Forest Service land to illegally harvest trees for firewood.

“The last thing our line crews need when responding to an emergency outage in these remote areas is to have to worry about damaged road gates that may impede their ability to reach downed or damaged lines,” says Neil Arthurs, physical security manager for BPA. “Particularly with winter approaching, restoring power in a timely fashion can have significant implications in this region.”

Additionally, maintaining and repairing road gates, along with their locks and pins, is expensive. These costs will be absorbed by Northwest electric ratepayers in their power rates. In the last year, BPA has experienced numerous acts of vandalism to four gates.

**Hungry Creek gate.** Located in T41N, R118W, Section 9, 6th principal meridian, Teton County, Wyoming. Forest Road 60033B. Accesses BPA towers 23-8 to 24-5. The gate is located on the north side of Wyoming Highway 22 across from the Burbank Creek road which is located on the south side of the road.

**Old Jackson Highway gate.** Located in T3N, R46E, Section 30, Boise meridian, Teton County, Idaho. Forest Road 60033. Accesses BPA towers 21-3 to 22-9. The gate is located

on the northeast side of Idaho Highway 33 just off the old Jackson Highway. Mike Harris Campground is across the highway on the southwest side of the highway.

**Sherman Springs gate.** Located along the section line boundary between T3N, R45E, Section 23 and T3N, R45E, Section 24, Boise meridian, Teton County, Idaho. Forest Road 60913-Sherman Springs Road. Accesses BPA towers 18-5 to 21-2. The gate is located on Sherman Springs Road. The gate is south of the Teton Springs Resort.

**Murphy Creek gate.** Located along the section line boundary between T3N, R45E, Section 19, Boise meridian, Teton County, Idaho. Forest Road 60909-Murphy Creek Road. Accesses BPA towers 15-1 to 18-2. The gate is located on the Murphy Creek Road. The gate and road are located south of Idaho Highway 31 near the base of Pine Creek Pass.

“We’re asking for anyone who may have been in the vicinity of these gates and seen suspicious activity or heard information relevant to this case to contact us,” says Kevin West, a physical security specialist for BPA.

If you have information about the vandalism to these gates, please contact us via the Crime Witness Hotline Program.

### **Crime Witness Program**

BPA offers up to \$25,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of individuals committing crimes against BPA facilities and infrastructure. If you have information about illegal or suspicious activity on BPA property, please call BPA’s 24-hour toll-free, confidential crime witness hotline at 800-437-2744. If you see illegal or suspicious activity happening in real time, please first contact local law enforcement. For more details about the program, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/CrimeWitness](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/CrimeWitness).

### **About BPA**

*The Bonneville Power Administration, headquartered in Portland, Oregon, is a nonprofit federal power marketer that sells wholesale electricity from 31 federal dams and one nuclear plant to 142 electric utilities, serving millions of consumers and businesses in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, western Montana and parts of California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. BPA delivers power via more than 15,000 circuit miles of lines and 261 substations to 475 transmission customers. In all, BPA markets about a third of the electricity consumed in the Northwest and operates three-quarters of the region’s high-voltage transmission grid. BPA also funds one of the largest fish and wildlife programs in the world, and, with its partners, pursues cost-effective energy savings and operational solutions that help maintain affordable, reliable and carbon-free electric power for the Northwest. [www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov)*

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